

# Alumni Letter

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Some months ago Time Magazine carried a significant article titled "Crisis in the College," in which the writer pointed out the dilemma of our institutions of higher learning caught between continually rising costs and falling incomes.

The article concluded with this statement: "Though the educators are not yet ready to admit to desperation, they are at least sounding the alarm. The alarm has gone out to alumni; and many presidents are convinced, says Amherst's Cole, '*that alumni loyalty alone can preserve the freedom of American education.*'"

This gives us something to think about—and seriously.

Many of the former sources of revenue for school endowment have disappeared under the drain of government taxation. No doubt the trend will continue in this direction. So we see it more clearly every day that only a renewed and sustained interest on the part of our alumni in the ongoing of Asbury Seminary will enable us to go forward.

All of us are happy and grateful over the generous gifts from some few sources of wealth in recent months. But if you could talk with anyone in the Administration you would hear them say, "It is the small gifts coming in regularly from God's people that keep the Seminary going." This is where Alumni loyalty really counts.

What I have said so far may lead you to believe I am thinking only in terms of the material needs of the school. However, I am thinking of a source of support which Time would probably never mention, but which is of far greater value to Asbury Seminary than gifts and pledges of money. I mean the prayers and personal interest of you alumni.

Above all else we want the Seminary to be a spiritual institution. I get that expression every time I talk to a student now in school or when an alumnus writes me. The surest way to keep it spiritual is to focus your prayers daily in this direction. Then maintain a personal interest in the affairs of the school to keep yourself informed.

These years just ahead present another real challenge to the Seminary. Mobilization for war brings increased needs for men in the chaplaincy. Churches whose pastors are called into service must be supplied, and new congregations here and there over the land will add to this demand. The need is not for someone to go out simply to "fill a position." It is for consecrated, Spirit-filled ministers; men going out with a passion for souls and a deep concern for the spiritual culture of their people. Asbury's real mission is to supply such a ministry.

This letter is being written as the New Year approaches, so we take this opportunity to wish for all of you a year fraught with blessing and increased success in the service of our Master.